THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) to (c) The Liquefied Petroleum Gas (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 1988 seeks to (i) control unauthorised possession and consumption of LPG (ii) regulate storage and transportation of LPG (iii) check the sale and distribution of LPG below the standard weight (iv) control the unauthorised possession, supply of sale of LPG equipment and (v) to invest in designated officers of the Central/State Governments and oil companies the power of entry, search and seizure with a view to ensuring compliance with the provisions of this Order;

(d) It is expected that effective enforcement of the provisions of this Order will protect the interests of genuine LPG consumers while preventing unauthorised diversion of LPG, in addition to enhancing safety in handling.

Reopening of Metal Box Limited Calcutta

640. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take any step for the reopening of Metal Box Limited, Calcutta; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) Under the provisions of the sick industrial companies (Special Provisions Act, 1985) Government have set up Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) which looks into the various aspects of revival of sick industrial companies. Such sick industrial companies are required to report sickness to the Board for considering sultable measures for revival/ rehabilitation. It is understood from BIFR that Metal Box India Ltd., have already approached them and their case has been registered by the Board on 15-1-88.

Recovery of unintended benefit made by Drug Companies

641. SHRI DAYANAND SAHAY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2724 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 21st March, 1988 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are cosidering the proposal to pass on the job of recovery of unintended benefit made by drug companies from the poor consumers to the Ministry of Finance;

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposal and by when the work will be taken up by the Ministry of Finance;

(c) whether it is a fact that the estimated amount of recovery is above Rs. 500 crores;

(d) if so, by when the total amount will be recovered with the present speed of recovery of about Rs. 4 crores during the last seven years; and

(e) the names of the drug companies to which notice for recovery have been issued along with the amount in each case?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) The details of the amount assessed tentatively by the special team as recoverable from the companies for the period ending 31-12-83

and the amounts recovered till-date are given below:—

S.No	*Name of the Company*	*Amount recoverable*	*Amount recovered*
1	M/s. Hoechs (I) Ltd.	5,64,12,423	3 crores
2	M/s. Cyanamid (I) Ltd	4,92,00,247	50 lakhs
3	M/s. John Wyeth (I)	1,66,87,232	25 lakhs
4	M/s. Pfizor Ltd.	*99,07,731	10 lakhs
5	M/s. Geoffey Manners Ltd. . . .	29,85,260	
6	M/s. Ethnor Ltd.	10,18,543	7,99,134
7	M/s. France India Pharmaceuticals (P) Ltd.	..	42,936

*The amount has subsequently been revised to Rs. 48,21,148 by the special team.

Opening of FAX service centres

642. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to start FAX service centres for the use of public; if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) how many Indian cities are connected with FAX infrastructure at present and how many more are proposed to be covered by FAX Net Work in the next two years;

(c) whether Government are considering to enter National and International Courrier Service Business directly or through subsidiary Company and if so, what are the details thereof;

(d) how many private Courrier, services are operating in the country at present and how many of them are FERA/Multi-national Companies; and

(e) whether any licence or registration is necessary for running the courrier services; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b) Inland Analog FAX service is already provided since 1982 between Central Telegraph Offices at 15 important cities. Presently upgradation of this service is under way utillsing latest version of digital FAX Equipment.

(c) Ministry of Communications, Department of Posts, is not considering to enter into National and International courier service business directly or through subsidary Company. However, it has its own service called 'Speed Post Service' which is fast, reliable and guaranteed. Domestic Speed Post Service is available in 37 cities within the country and International Speed Post Service with 29 countries at present. However, it is true that Vayudoot, a Public Sector Company, under the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India is running its own courier service. Further information is being collected from the Ministry of Civil Aviation and will be placed on the Table of the House.

(d) The information is being collected from the Ministry of Finance and the same will be laid on the Table of the House.